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5-5-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Didier Beudon et al.

Entitled: DEVICE FOR DIFFUSING STERILE AIR

Serial No.: To be assigned

Date Filed: Concurrently

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application, Applicant's respectfully requests that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

In the Claims:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) (3), please substitute for pending claims 3, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 15 and 18 with the following clean version of the claims. The changes to these claims are shown explicitly in the attached "Marked Up Version of Claims."

3. (Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said wall is an end wall of another similar device with which it forms a set of devices for the close protection of products arranged on a worktop of large length, which are sensitive to the contamination conveyed by the ambient environment, said devices being abutted without mechanical fixing therebetween.

5. (Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least one sheath (101, 102, 103) made of a flexible material diffusing a sterile air stream in a vertical direction substantially perpendicular to said worktop (12), said sheath being formed of a quasi-leaktight upper wall and of a porous lower wall